



# SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

## GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217  
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn> P: 478-207-2440 F: 877-371-5712

April 2010  
Volume 2, Issue 2

## Update from the Director

*Randy Vaughn*

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Update from the Director	1
About the Board	1
2010 Meeting Dates	2
Board Members and Staff	2
Active Licensees and Expiration Dates	2
Actions Taken by the Board	2-3
License Renewal Process	3
Complaint Process Information	4
Frequently Asked Questions	4

working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

## About the Board

The Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses consists of seven members: four licensed practical nurses, one consumer member, and two registered professional nurses—one nurse serving in an administrative position in a hospital or nursing home, and one nurse engaging in practical nursing education.

Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, except when in executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items and applications are discussed.

## 2010 Meeting Dates

June 9–10, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
August 18–19, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
October 20–21, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
December 8–9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at:  
[www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn)

## Board Members and Staff

Barbara Mitchell, RN, NHA, President  
Jane P. Sipple, LPN, Vice President  
K. Andrea Phipps, LPN  
Patricia Z. Marshall, LPN  
Kellie Lockwood, RN, MSN  
Fredetena C. Fletcher, LPN  
Le Ann Tuggle, Consumer Member

Sandy Bond, RN, MSN  
Executive Director  
Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurses.

## Active Licensees

Licensed Practical Nurse: 33,496  
Qualified Medication Aide: 2

## Expiration Dates

Licensed Practical Nurse – March 31 of odd numbered years

**"It is illegal to practice as a licensed practical nurse with an expired license."**

## Actions Taken by the Board

**February:** The Board ratified 282 licenses from December 7, 2010 to February 1, 2010, including initial licensure, reinstatements, endorsements and examinations.

The Board accepted the following public consent orders:

- Kellie Denise Pruitt, Gainesville: Amended order for non-compliance
- Amanda Boatright, Mershon: Amended order for non-compliance

The Board accepted the following public consent agreements for reinstatement of licensure for unlicensed practice:

- Jessica M. Beasley, Columbus: \$500 fine
- Amber L. Kingry, Columbus: \$500 fine
- Stephanie Lynn Akers, Hampton: \$750 fine

The Board accepted the following public reprimands:

- Patricia J. Blosser, Rome: Nursing education courses in wound management, patients' rights and universal precautions
- Francine Jean-Laurent, Snellville: Nursing education course in medication administration and ethics within 90 days

The Board received and accepted the following voluntary surrender:

- Emory Hess, Chatsworth

The Board suspended the following license for a student loan default:

- Many S. Rose Sirmans, Goose Creek, SC

The Board agreed to submit proposed rule revisions to the following Board Rules:

- 400-1-.01 Organization of Board. Amended.
- 400-2-.02 Qualifications: Regular Examination Candidates Licensure by Examination.

## License Renewal Process

### How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

### Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses disciplinary issues on a case by case basis and takes these matters very seriously applying sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Licensed Practical Nurse Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees familiarize themselves with all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession; these may be found on the Board's website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn/).

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on our website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/).

*Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-26-40 and at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19. State laws and Board rules may be found on our website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/lpn/).*

## Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Practical Nurse to regulate the licensing and practice of nursing. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43–26 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for addressing complaints is as follows:

### Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on–line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

### Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

### Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207–2440.